



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
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Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: NM115

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: State of New Mexico (Catron, Socorro, Sierra, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties)
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or
Location of Position: SW Quadrant of State
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☒ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Beef Cattle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dairy Cattle |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Swine |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Poultry |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Small Ruminant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ |

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Beef Cattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Dairy Cattle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Swine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Poultry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Small Ruminant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other : _____ |

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Food Safety |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Health |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Epidemiology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other: _____ |

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objective of food animal veterinarians in the Southwestern quadrant of New Mexico is to service beef, dairy and sheep operations, and to increase quality and quantity of veterinary care available to producers. This quadrant covers six large counties (28,131 square miles), has a population of 95,943 people and average per capita income of \$24,048. The quadrant has approximately 170,100 cattle and sheep and there are cow/calf operations in every county. This quadrant contributed cash receipts of \$158,781 to NM from all livestock in 2008. There is a Mexican border crossing and a livestock market in this quadrant. This quadrant is significantly underserved; only 7 listed food animal veterinarians (FAV) to serve this large geographic area (1FAV/24,300 animals). One county in the quadrant has large dairy operations and a feedlot. A Type I Shortage veterinarian would spend 80% of their time conducting herd health management, disease surveillance and regulatory duties. Although one veterinarian in the nominated area received a VMLRP award, this area is still significantly underserved due to the size of the area and number of animals. The awarded veterinarian is running a practice and may have opportunities for hiring a second awardee in the area.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

In order to fulfill the objectives, a food animal veterinarian in this area would be involved in: herd management; basic health care; disease surveillance for beef cattle, dairy cattle and small ruminants; performing the regulatory functions of a USDA Accredited Veterinarian, including issuing certificates for interstate and international livestock movement; brucellosis testing and vaccination; tuberculosis testing; development of disease management and cleaning/disinfection plans; and the recognition of signs of foreign animal diseases. Included in the time assessment is the mandatory recordkeeping associated with all of these tasks. Disease surveillance would also include testing and monitoring for tuberculosis, brucellosis, bovine trichomoniasis, bovine viral diarrhea, scrapie, and pseudorabies. This veterinarian would also conduct surveillance for livestock diseases that may emerge along the U.S./Mexico border and address animal health issues that have the potential to impact the health of humans and the economy.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

There have been attempts by the multiple State agencies to develop incentives for livestock practitioners. An agreement with Kansas State University to admit qualified New Mexico students from agricultural backgrounds has stalled due to lack of funding. The burden of supplying more livestock practitioners to the area continues to fall on the shoulders of existing practitioners, who find it challenging to attract veterinarians away from the higher salaries and perceived better quality of life that the metropolitan areas provide. Financial incentives are vital in any efforts to attract veterinarian practitioners to these rural areas.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

New Mexico's livestock industry has a long history steeped in family tradition. Many cattle/calf ranches and dairies are family owned and operated, on lands family-owned for generations. Some operate on Spanish land grants hundreds of years old. However, NM is also known for having some of the largest corporate dairies in the nation. The State's economy benefits greatly from the revenue generated by the livestock industry and many New Mexicans are employed by ranches and dairies. New Mexico, the nation's fifth largest state, ranks eighth nationally in milk production. Milk is the state's #1 cash commodity \$1.36 billion and cattle/calves second at \$999 million (2008). It has been estimated that the New Mexico dairy industry generates 17,158 jobs. The quadrant's existing livestock veterinarians face long hours trying to service a large number of livestock over hundreds of square miles. Not only does this put a strain on the veterinarians and their families but also does a disservice to the livestock producers and compromises efforts by regulatory agencies to deal with the animal diseases that can affect both animal and public health. Proper disease surveillance is at risk because there are not enough veterinarians in the area to service the food animal industry. The existing veterinarians in this area are doing the best they can with the resources available, but they are stretched too thin. More veterinarians are crucial to support this vital segment of New Mexico's economy, keep our food animals healthy and ensure the safety of our food supply.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dave E. Fly, DVM

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Organization: New Mexico Livestock Board

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.